M: 23-15 Sundown Farm/Tusculum Montgomery County, Maryland

The property alternatively known as Sundown Farms or Tusculum is a large, 432-acre estate on the north side of Damascus Road, near the crossroads of Sunshine in northeastern Montgomery County.

The property includes a large stone and frame farmhouse, parts of which may date to the 18th century, and an important collection of barns, two of which were built in the 1940s by master-builder August Priebe. The property was owned in the mid-18th century by Henry Griffith, a prominent Marylander, who in addition to being a member of the Annapolis Convention that formed the Association of Freeman of Maryland, also witnessed the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Tusculum meets Criteria B and C of the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties.

| MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST MD INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES | Inventory No. <u>M-23-15</u> |
|---|---|
| 1. Name of Property | ======================================= |
| historic name <u>Tusculum</u> common/other name <u>Griffith-Hutton House</u> | ======================================= |
| 2. Location | |
| street & number 4601 Damascus Rd Not city or town Unity vicinity X state county Montgomery code zip | for publication Marvland code MD |
| 3. State/Federal Agency Certification | N/A ==================================== |
| 4. National Park Service Certification | N/A ==================================== |
| 5. Classification | |
| Ownership of Property (Check all that app X private public-local public-State public-Federal | |
| Category of Property (Check only one box) _X_ building(s) district site structure object | |
| s: st | uildings ites tructures bjects otal |
| Is this property listed in the National Re Yes Name of Listing | egister? NoX |

| Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Inventory No. M-23-15 Tusculum/Griffith-Hutton House Page 2 Montgomery County, Maryland |
|---|
| 6. Function or Use |
| Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions) Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single Dwelling AGRICULTURE Barn: Stable |
| Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions) Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single Dwelling AGRICULTURE Barn; Stable |
| 7. Description |
| Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions) COLONIAL: Georgian |
| Materials (Enter categories from instructions) foundation STONE roof SLATE walls STONE and WOOD other BRICK (Cornice) |
| Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property.) |

See Continuation Sheet No. 7-1

| Maryland Inven Tusculum/Griff Montgomery Cou | tory of Historic Properties Inventory No. <u>M-23-15</u> ith-Hutton House Page 3 nty, Maryland | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 8. Statement o | | | | | | |
| Applicable Nat | ional Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more criteria the property for National ng) | | | | | |
| A | Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. | | | | | |
| <u>X</u> B | Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past. | | | | | |
| <u>X</u> C | Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction. | | | | | |
| D | Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history. | | | | | |
| Criteria Consid | derations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.) | | | | | |
| A | owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes. | | | | | |
| B | removed from its original location. | | | | | |
| C | a birthplace or a grave. | | | | | |
| D | a cemetery. | | | | | |
| E | a reconstructed building, object, or structure. | | | | | |
| F | a commemorative property. | | | | | |

less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

____ G

| Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Inventory No. M-23-15 Tusculum/Griffith-Hutton House Page 4 Montgomery County, Maryland |
|---|
| Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions) AGRICULTURE ARCHITECTURE |
| Period of Significance 1747-1946 |
| Significant Dates <u>1747</u> |
| Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) Henry Griffith |
| Cultural Affiliation |
| Architect/Builder |
| Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property.) |
| See Continuation Sheet No. 8-1 |

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Inventory No. $\underline{\text{M-23-15}}$ Tusculum/Griffith-Hutton House Page 5 Montgomery County, Maryland

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, legal records, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Allen G. Noble and Richard K. Cleek, The Old Barn Book: A field guide to North American Barns and other Farm Structures. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1995.

Coleman, Margaret Marshall and Anne Dennis Lewis. *Montgomery County: A Pictorial History*. Norfolk, VA: The Donning Company. 1984.

Ellis, Ruth W. "Farms open their gates." Frederick Post. July 21, 1992.

Farquhar, Roger Brooke. Old Homes and History of Montgomery County, MD. Silver Spring, MD., 1952, 1962.

Lehman, Florence. "Tusculum-1747 home combination of old and new." The Courier. May 27, 1981.

Levy, Claudia. "Developer, Real Estate Manager, Carl M. Freeman Dies at Age 87." Washington Post. July 7, 1998.

Montgomery County Land Records, Montgomery County, Maryland.

Sandy Spring Museum, Biography Files, Photographic Files, and House Files, Sandy Spring, Maryland.

Genealogical Abstracts, Montgomery County Sentinel 1855-1899.

Maps and Drawings and Photographs

Hopkins, G.M., Atlas of Fifteen Miles around Washington, including the County of Montgomery, Maryland, 1879.

Simon L. Martenet, Martenet and Bond's Map of Montgomery County, 1865.

| Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Inventory No. M-23-15 Tusculum/Griffith-Hutton House Page 6 Montgomery County, Maryland | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 10. Geographical Data | | | | | | |
| Acreage of Property 310.34 acres | | | | | | |
| Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.) Tusculum occupies parcel #444 on Montgomery County Tax Map HW. | | | | | | |
| Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.) This parcel is part of a larger parcel of land that was associated with the property since the 18th century. | | | | | | |
| 11. Form Prepared By | | | | | | |
| name/titleKimberly Williams/Michele Naru, Architectural Historians organization_M-NCPPC | | | | | | |
| 12. Property Owner ==================================== | | | | | | |
| name Carl M. Freeman and Virginia Freeman street & number 4601 Damascus Rd telephone city or town Unity state MD zip code 20833 | | | | | | |

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

CONTINUATION SHEET Section __7_ Page _1_

Inventory No. M-23-15 Tusculum/Griffith-Hutton <u> House/Freedman Barns</u> name of property Montgomery County, MD county and state

The property known alternatively as Tusculum or the Griffith-Hutton House is located on a 219-acre parcel of land at 4601 Damascus Road in rural Montgomery County. The property includes a large stone and frame house, parts of which may date to the 18th century and three large barns and silos, cohesively grouped west of the main dwelling.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The main house at Tusculum is a 2-1/2 story cross gable stone and frame structure that is the product of several building campaigns. The oldest part of the house appears to be the principal stone wing, though the frame ell attached to it may occupy the site of an earlier log structure, and even incorporate aspects of it into its walls. Tradition holds that the original log house on the property was built in 1747 by Henry Griffith. The stone wing (today's main block) was added circa 1797.

The house has several additions, including a contemporary stone wing at the rear of the dwelling. The entire structure is covered with a slate roof.

Exterior Description:

The south elevation is divided into five bays; two-bays in the frame wing and three-bays in the stone section. The stone wing, and main block of the house, contains a side entry and two, 9/6 windows featuring two-paneled louvered shutters. The entry contains a simple surround with a three-light transom. A single-story porch with squared, wood columns spans the length of this facade. The second story contains three, 6/6 windows with two paneled louvered Rising above the windows is a flat fascia board and a brick sawtooth cornice. The half-story contains two symmetrically placed dormer windows with 6/6 windows.

The frame wing contains a large bay window on the first story, two, 6/6 windows with two-paneled louvered shutters on the second story, and a single fanlight in the center of the half story. The gable end features a flat fascia board and cornice returns.

The west elevation has only two openings located in the gable end at the attic level, to either side of the interior end chimney. The family room addition is visible from this elevation.

The east (historically the principal) elevation is divided into three bays. The first story contains a central, two-paneled entry door with flanking 6/6 windows fashioning two-paneled, louvered MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. M: 23-15

Section __7 Page _2_

Tusculum/Griffith-Hutton House/Freedman Barns name of property Montgomery County, MD county and state

shutters. The second story features a paired 6/6 window and a single 6/6 window. The roof features a massive central chimney and a dormer window. The sun porch addition is visible from this elevation.

The south elevation of the stone ell mirrors the north elevation. The only variant is in the attic level, where there is only one centrally placed dormer window. The south elevation of the frame massing contains only a 6/6 window in the gable end of the attic level.

AGRICULTURAL BUILDINGS

An important group of agricultural buildings is located west of the main dwelling and includes two barns with silos and a stable.

Barn #1: This southernmost barn of the group is a late 19th-century gable-roofed frame structure with vertical board walls. interior of the barn has been extensively altered for use as an assembly hall.

Barn #2: This barn is located directly north barn #1. Built in 1942, it is a post and beam frame structure covered with a gable roof, clad with sheet metal, and featuring two ventilators at the ridge. The barn is sheathed in vertical boards with slit The interior is divided into three bays with a ventilators. central drive-in crib and equipment/hay storage areas to either

Barn #3: This large gambrel roof, wood frame barn was built in 1944-46 by barn builder August Priebe. Described as a cattle barn in earlier documentation on the site, this barn actually serves as a stable, and appears to have been constructed as a stable. It is two stories in height, 24 bays long and seven bays wide, and is covered with a steep gambrel roof with a hay hood. The north side contains a shed addition extending the entire length of the north elevation. The roof is covered with sheet metal and the ridge has three ventilators topped with weather vanes. Each gable end has three central double sliding doors, one on each level. The third story's door is protected by a small gabled roof extension, or hay hood. On the ground floor, all the windows are 6/6.

On the interior, the barn is divided into wood box stalls on either side of a central passageway. A tack room and grain room are in the southwest corner of the barn. Two large concrete stave silos stand to the east of the barn.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

CONTINUATION SHEET
Section 8 Page 1

Inventory No. M-23-15
Sundown Farm/Tusculum
name of property
Montgomery County, MD
county and state

HISTORIC CONTEXT

The property known alternatively as Sundown Farms or Tusculum is a large 432-acre estate on the north side of Damascus Road, near the crossroads of Sunshine in northeastern Montgomery County. The property includes a large stone and frame farmhouse, parts of which may date to the 18th century, and an important collection of dairy barns, built in the 1940s by master-builder August Priebe. The property was owned in the mid-18th century by Henry Griffith, a prominent Marylander, who in addition to being a member of the Annapolis Convention that formed the Association of Freeman of Maryland, also witnessed the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Tusculum meets Criteria B and C of the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties.

Property History:

Tradition maintains that the original log house (no longer extant or encapsulated in later addition) at Tusculum was built in 1747 by patriot Henry Griffith. Henry Griffith was a prominent Marylander who was Justice of the Lower Court of Frederick County, Moderator of the Hungerford Tavern meeting in 1774, and Member of the Annapolis Convention that formed the Association of Freemen of Maryland. Griffith also witnessed the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

However, based upon a review of the deed records for the property, it appears that the land upon which Tusculum stands was owned in the mid-18th century by John Beale Bordley of Annapolis, and not actually purchased by Griffith until 1797. In either case, Griffith owned the property until 1807. In 1807, Henry Griffith died, and the property, referred to as "my dwelling plantation" in Griffith's will, was sold to Henry Howard by Philemon Griffith and Joshua Griffith, executors of Henry Griffith's estate. Following Henry Howard's death, the approximately 219 acres of the original property, including the dwelling, was sold by his widow, Sarah Howard, in three separate transactions to George R. Gaither. George R. Gaither owned the property until 1862, at which point he sold it to Frederick O. Gaither. Three years later, Frederick O. Gaither sold the property to Enoch B. Hutton; the deed of sale refers to the property as "Tusculum" and "The Diamond" and describes it as having 219-3/8 acres. The 1879 G.M. Hopkin's Atlas of Montgomery County, identifies the property by the name Charles C. Hutton.

In 1881, Enoch B. Hutton died, and the following year the property underwent new ownership. Joshua B. Jones purchased the 219-3/8 acres in December 1882, and by August 1883, had sold it to Thomas

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. M23-15

Section 8 Page 2

Sundown Farm/Tusculum name of property Montgomery County, MD county and state

B. Howard. Thomas B. Howard was a descendent of the early 19thcentury owner, Henry Howard. Thomas B. Howard retained ownership of the property until 1917. Clifford L. Howard was deeded the estate in 1917.

Seventeen years later in May of 1934, Clifford L. Howard sold the property to Walter and Cora Gregg. The Greggs had only lived in the house for four years when they sold it to Howard M. Higgins in February, 1938. Two years later, Mr. Higgins conveyed the house and land to Mercerdes Hurt. The Hurts lived at Tusculum for over twenty years. In January of 1961, Everett R. Hurt sold the property to Consolidated Investments, Inc. Ten days later, Rose Saek purchased the property. She lived at Tusculum for three years. In May of 1964, Carl and Virginia Freedman purchased the property from Ms. Saek. Carl Freedman, a well-known real estate developer in the area, best known for Seaside, in Bethany Beach, Delaware, was killed in 1998 in a car crash in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Today, Mrs. Freedman and her son, Joshua, reside in the house.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. M-23-15
Sundown Farms/Tusculum
name of property
Montgomery County, MD
county and state

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Development Period (s):

Industrial-Urban Dominance, 1870-1930 Modern Period, 1930-Present

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme (s):

Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning

RESOURCE TYPE(S)

Category: Standing Structure

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function (s): Domestic

Known Design Source:

| MARYLAND | INVENTORY | OF | HISTORIC | PROPERTIES |
|---------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|-----------|------------|
| 1 11 11 (1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 | T T 4 A TOTA T O T C T | \mathcal{O}_{L} | 111010111 | EVOEDVITEO |

CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. M-23-15Tusculum/Griffith-Hutton House/Freeman Barns name of property Montgomery County, MD county and state

Chain of Title:

June 10, 1797

550 acres of land conveyed from John Beal Bordley to Henry Griffith. (Deed Book N Folio 237)

1807

Henry Griffith died.

May 15, 1807

Henry Griffith's trust to Henry Howard, son of John.

Parts of the tracts of land "Tusculum, Elk Ridge, Resurvey of Griffiths Choice, Inmans Plains and That's all." -550 acres (Deed Book N Folio 237)

Henry Howard died.

September 2, 1838

Rebecca Howard, heir to Henry Howard conveys to George R. Gaither parts of the tract of land called "Tusculum" -containing 116.5 acres. (Deed Book BS9 Folio 121)

September 14, 1838

Sarah Howard, widow of Henry Howard conveys to George R. Gaither parts of the tract of land called "Tusculum and "The Diamond".(Deed Book BS9 Folio 123)

September 14, 1838

Sarah Howard, widow of Henry Howard conveys to George R. Gaither parts of the tract of land called "Tusculum and "The Diamond".--29.75 acres. (Deed Book BS9 Folio 125)

September 8, 1862

George R. Gaither sells to Frederick O. Gaither conveying the properties described in the deeds recorded at Deed Book BS 9 Liber 121, 123, 125. (Deed Book JGH 9 Folio 322)

November 29, 1865

Frederick O. Gaither to Enoch B. Hutton. Tracts identified as "Tusculum" and "The Diamond"--219 3/8 acres. (Deed Book EPB 2 Folio 451)

September 24, 1875

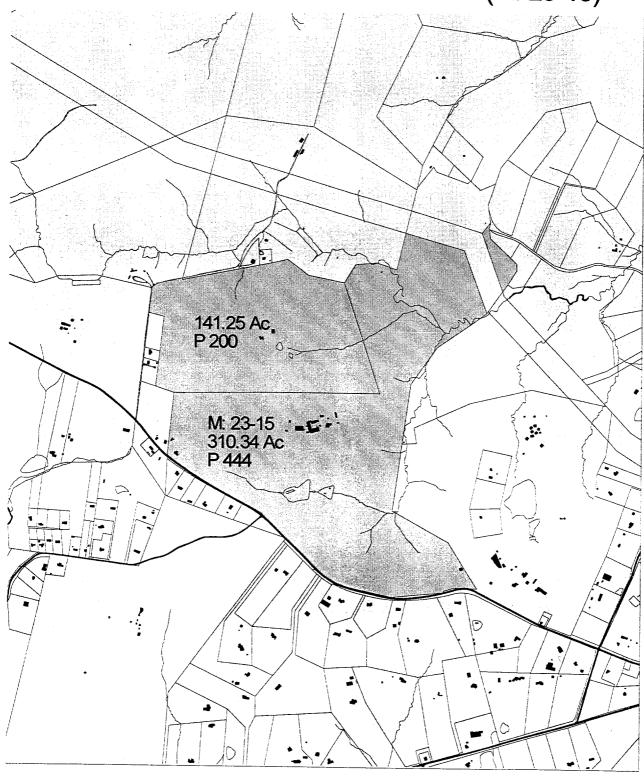
George R. Gaither died. (Sentinel, p137)

1881

Enoch B. Hutton died.

September 27. 1881 Estate of Enoch B. Hutton to Charles B. Hutton. Tracts identified as "Tusculum" and "The Diamond" --219 3/8 acres. (Deed Book EPB 25 Folio 209) December 19, 1882 Charles B. Hutton to Joshua B. Jones. 219 3/8 acres. (Deed Book EPB 27 Folio 404) August 30, 1883 Joshua B. Jones to Thomas B. Howard. 219 3/8 acres. (Deed Book EPB 29 Folio 272) September 25, 1885 Frederick O. Gaither died. (Sentinel, p137) January 31, 1917 Thomas B. Howard et ux to Clifford L. Howard. 219 3/8 acres. (Deed Book 262 Folio 55) May 22, 1934 Clifford L. Howard to Walter and Cora M. Gregg. 219 3/8 acres. (Deed Book 568 Folio 481) February 10, 1938 Walter and Cora M. Gregg to Howard M. Higgins et ux. 219 3/8 acres. (Deed Book 693 Folio 213) November 20, 1940 Howard M. Higgins et ux to Mercerdes Hurt. 219 3/8 acres. (Deed Book 805 Folio 287) January 14, 1961 Everett R. Hurt et ux to Consolidated Investments Inc. conveying five tracts of land. Tract IV is identified as parts of "Tusculum" and "The Diamond" containing 219 3/8 acres. (Deed Book 2817 Folio 64) January 24, 1961 Consolidated Investments Inc. to Rose Saek Four parcels of land in total--Parcel IV being the parts of the tracts of land "Tusculum" and "The Diamond" containing 219 acres. (Deed Book 2818 Folio 199) May 1, 1964 Rose Saek to Carl Freeman (Present Owner). 219 acres. (Deed Book 3223 Folio 460)

SUNDOWN FARMS - TUSCULUM (M: 23-15)



" asual User Application

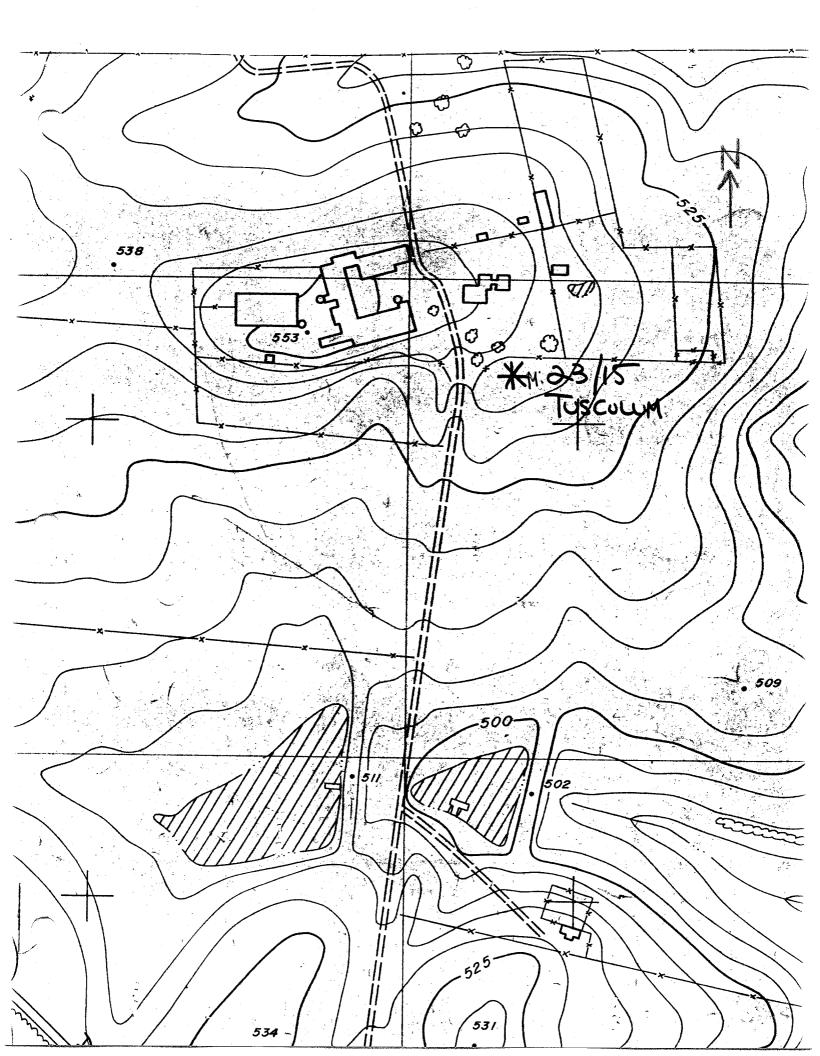


MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARK AND PLANNING THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION 8787 Goorgia Avenue - Silver Spring, Minyland 200910-3760



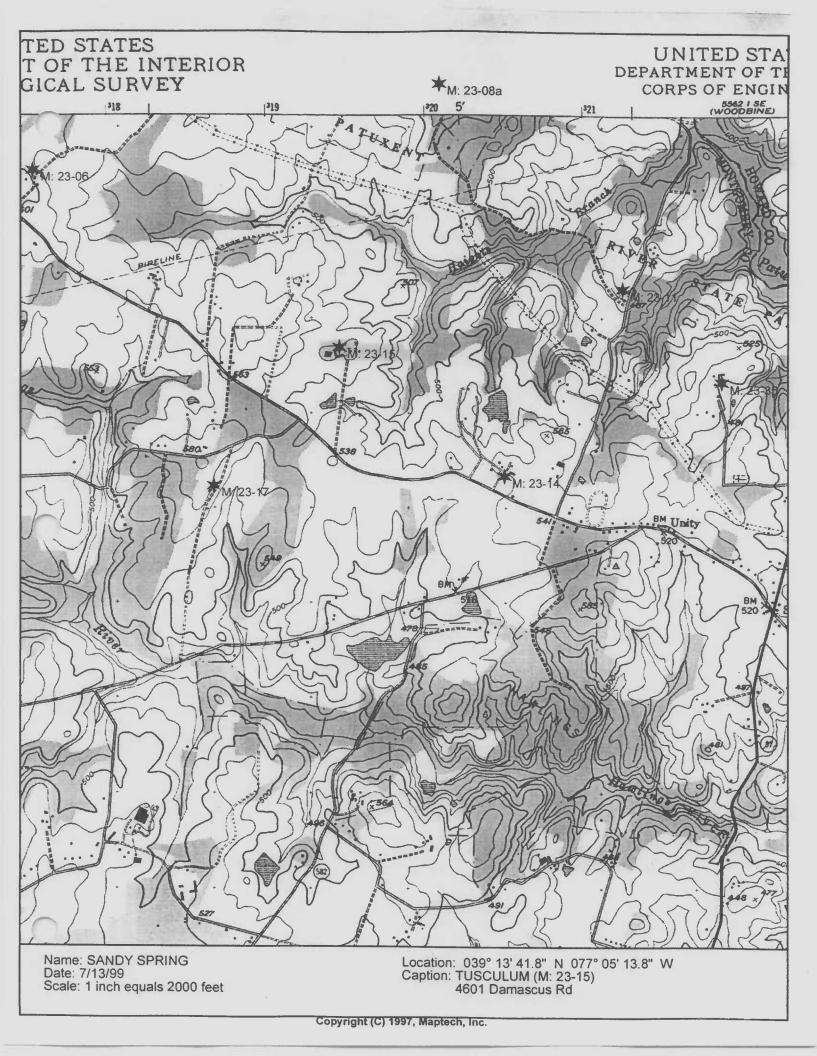






22

Hopkins, G.M., comp. Atlas of Fifteen Miles around Washington, including the County of Montgomery, Maryland, 1879. Reprint. Rockville, MD.: Montgomery County Historical Society, 1975.





13-15 TUSCULUM GRIFFITH - HUTTON HOUSE MONTGOMERY CO, MD KIM WILLIAMS 1-5-00

MARTLAND SHOO

SOUTH ELEVATION

1000



12-10 TUSCULUM GFIFTH HUTTON HOUSE MANTGOMERT CO. MD KIM WILLIAMS 1-5-00 MARYLAND SHOO WEST ELEVATION

2000



TUSCULUM GRIFFITH-HUTTON HOUSE MONTGOMERY CO., MD

KIM WILLIAMS

EXTENDATION

3019

MARYLAND SHOO



TIECULUM / GETTITH NUMEN HOUSE MONTGOMERY CO, MD KIM WILLIAMS 1-5-00 MARTLAND SHOO VIEW FROM DAMINECUE ROAD, LOCKING NORTHLAST 4000



23-15 TUSCULUTA/GRIFFITH-HUTTON HOUSE MONTGOMERT CO, MD

KIM WILLIAMS 1-5-99

50+の

MARTLANDSHO

WEST ELLVATION OF GAMBREL POOF BARN



19-15 TUSCULUM/GRIFFITH-HUTTON HOUSE MONTGOMERY CO., MD KIM WILLIAMS 1-5-00 MARYLAND SHOO EAST EVENATION OF GAMBREL POOF BARN

(00+0)



23-15 TUSCULUM / GRIFFITH - HUTTON HOUSE MONTGOMERT CO, MD KIM WILLIAMS 1-5-00 MARTLAND SHPO INTERIOR VIEW OF GAMBRELL ROOF EPPN; LOOKING WEST 70+0



13-15 TUSCULUM/GRIFFITH-HUTTON HOUSE MONTGOMERT CO, MD KIM WILLIAMS 1-5-00 MARYLAND SHPO SOUTH ELEVATION OF BANK BARN 30F0



TUSCULUM | GRIFFITH - HUTTON HOUSE
MANTGOMERT CO., MD

KIM WILLIAMS
1-5-99
MARYLAND SHPO

NORTH ELEVATION OF BANK BARN

0)000

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Magi No.

DOE __yes __no

| 1. Name | e (indicate prefe | erred name) | |
|---|--|---|--|
| historic | Tusculum or Sur | ndown Farms | |
| and/or common | Carl Freeman Fa | arm | |
| 2. Loca | tion | | |
| street & number | 4601 Damascus F | Road na saidh a saidh leann a leann a saidh leann a s | not for publication |
| city, town | | $- 	ilde{	imes}$ vicinity of $	ilde{	imes}$ congressional district | |
| state 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 | Maryland | county Montgomery | |
| 3. Class | sification | র বিশ্ব বিশ্ব পুলাল বিশ্ব বি | a production of the |
| district _X building(s) structure | public private both Public Acquisition in process being considered | Status Present Use X occupied X agriculture unoccupied commercial work in progress educational Accessible entertainment X yes: restricted government yes: unrestricted industrial no military | museum park private residence religious scientific transportation other: |
| 4. Owne | er of Propert | y (give names and mailing addresses | s of <u>all</u> owners) |
| name* *********************************** | Carl M. Freeman | | state (progress |
| street & number | 11325 Seven Loc | |). : |
| city, town | Potomac | state and zip code | MD 20854 |
| 5. Loca | tion of Legal | Description | |
| courthouse, regist | ry of deeds, etc. Montg | omery County Courthouse | liber 3223 |
| street & number | | | folio 460 |
| city, town | Rockville | state | Maryland |
| 6. Repr | esentation in | Existing Historical Surve | eys |
| titie | M-NCPPC Histori | c Sites Inventory | |
| date | 1976 | federal state | X county local |
| pository for surv | vey records M-NCPPC | Park Historian's Office | |
| city, town | Rockvill | e state | Maryland |

Description

Survey No. M: 23-15

| Condition X excellent good fair | Check one _X_ unaltered altered | Check oneX original sit | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--|--|
| | | | | |

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

> There are three large barns on the Carl Freeman farm, known historically as Sundown Farms or Tusculum. The southernmost barn is a late 19th century barn that has been extensively altered inside. The barn directly north of that is a gable roof, wood frame barn built in 1942. The roof is covered with sheet metal and has two ventilators in the ridge. The barn is sheathed in vertical boards with spaces between them. Two huge vertical board doors roll horizontally on a track to cover the main doorway in the center of the south elevation. On either side of this opening is a smaller door flanked by a pair of small, double windows containing six-light wood sash. Another door and similar small windows are on the west elevation. A garage addition extends from the east elevation. The construction of this barn is odd. It consists of posts and beams which rise from the ground to support the roof, but instead of being solid timbers, they are pairs of 2x6's held apart by spacers. Such modern construction methods contrast sharply with the older-style interior of the barn, which contains the enclosed rooms to the side of the central driveway within the barn.

> The premier barn on the property is the large, wood framed, gambrel roof cattle barn built in 1944-46. This barn is 24 bays long and seven bays wide. On the north side it has a shed addition extending the entire length of the north elevation. The roof is covered with sheet metal; on the ridge are three ventilators topped with weather vanes. Each gable end has three central double doorways, one at ground level, one directly above it, and one beneath the peak of the roof, protected by a small gabled extension of the roof. On the ground floor the windows are all six-light wood sash (recent replacements for the original windows). Inside, the barn is divided into wood box stalls on either side of the main passageway. A tack room and grain room are in the southeast corner of the barn. Two large concrete stave silos stand to the east of the barn.

| <u>8.∵5</u> | ign | ificance | - | | | | | Survey No | P·M: 23- | 15 |
|--|---|--|----------------------------|---------------------------------|--|-----------------------|------------------------------|---|-----------|---|
| Period prehi 1400 1500 1600 1700 1800 X_ 1900- | -1499 -1599 -1699 -1799 -1899 | Areas of Significance archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic agriculture architecture art commerce communications | oric _ - - - - | con con eco edu eng | nmunity servation cation pineering loration ustry | y plannin ion s | g _ _ _ _ _ _ | landscape al law literature military music philosophy politics/gove | ernment | religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify |
| Specific | dates | 1944-46 | E | Builder | /Archi | tect | | August W. | Priebe | : |
| check: | ar | .cable Criteria: _ nd/or .cable Exception: | | | | | E | FG | | |
| | Leve1 | of Significance: | n | ation | al _ | _state | X | _local | | |
| Prepare support | | a summary paragrap | oh of | sign | ifica | nce and | d a | general sta | tement of | history and |

The 20th century barns on this historic property have a significance of their own. Built by one of Montgomery's best 20th century barn builders, August Priebe, the large cattle barn exhibits not only sound construction but a beauty seldom found in County barns of this era. It was built over a period of two years, from 1944 to 1946, by Mr. Priebe and a few helpers. Its design is basically straightforward, but the gambrel roof with its upper pitch shorter than its lower pitch, is exceedingly graceful. Contrasted with the 1942 barn next to it (builder unknown), this barn is clearly the work of a master.

The fact that the cattle barn is constructed of wood is interesting. Most barns built from the 1930's to the 1960's were built of concrete block. August Priebe, however, had been building wood barns for at least 20 years (see August Priebe barn at Pleasant Fields, built 1926). He owned a wagon-mounted saw mill, and he would cut the lumber for a barn on the farm where it was to be built. Apparently he was a traditionalist, too, for the structure of this barn is the older one of post and beam, mortise, tenon, and pegged. After the 1920's most gambrel roofs were of the self-supporting truss variety.

The barn has significance in 20th century County farming history. Its previous owner, Everett R. Hurt, had it built to house his huge herd of beef cattle, said to be "some of the best Hereford cattle in this country." The barn is currently used as a horse barn.

FOOTNOTES

- 1. Interview with Russell Priebe (son of August Priebe), August, 1987.
- 2. Ibid.
- 3. Roger Brooke Farquhar, Old Homes and History of Montgomery County, Maryland, (Washington, DC: Judd & Detweiler, Inc., 1962), p. 296.

9. Major Bibliographical References

| 10. Ge | ograp | hical | Data | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------|-------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|-------------|---|------------|-----------------|
| Acreage of nomir Quadrangle name | e | · | IIIIM mofor | | | | Quadrang | le scale | | |
| UTM References A | | Northing | oim refer | ences | B Zone | Easting | \$14.75 | Northing | | |
| C | | | | 100 100 120 120 | D F H | | | | | |
| Verbal bounda | ry descript | on and jus | tification | | | | | | | |
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| state | rang galasi. Pang galasi | | | coun | ı y | | | code | | |
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The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:

Maryland Historical Trust

Shaw House

21 State Circle

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

(301) 269-2438

Survey No.M: 23-15





Carl Freeman Farm
4601 Damascus Road
Unity, MD
Andrea Rebeck 1987
1946 barn, looking northeast



Carl Freeman Farm
4601 Damascus Road
Unity, MD
Andrea Rebeck 1987
1942 barn, south elevation

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM for the NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

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CONDITION

(Check One)

The house is a two-story, stone and frame building, erected in several sections. The older part is the stone, west wing. It has a three-bay facade with the doorway in the east bay; the transom light is rectangular, with fanned muntins. The windows are 9,6 double hung sash with wooden sills. The cornice is brick covered with plaster; the lowest band is two courses; the center bricks set saw-tooth and the upper two courses of successively projecting bricks. At the west end is a flush gable brick chimney stack. The dormers on the front facade were addded about 30 years ago. There is a shed-roofed porch across the facade.

The east (frame) wing is set at right angles to the stone section. The facade gable has a returned cornice and a semi-circular gable fanlight. Cornerboards are treated as pilasters with moulded caps supporting the boxed cornice. The sheathing is clapboard except the north gable end, which is flush boarding.

The frame section connects the original house to the stone, two-story kitchen. It has an A-roof with a flush gable chimney on the north end. The side walls are one bay. The cornice is boxed.

In plan, the oldest section has a hall and parlor. The hall stairs rise in a V-run with an open well to the attic. The frame section is two rooms with fireplaces on the partition wall. The panelling supposedly come from a New England whaling vessel.

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The house was built in 1747 by Henry Griffith, Justice of the Lower Court of Frederick County, Moderator of the Hungerford Tavern meeting in 1774, and Member of the Annapolis Convention that formed the Association of Freemen of Maryland. He witnessed the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

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undown Farms

ALF-A-MILE off the north side of the highway from Unity to Etchison stands a very handsome house on a prominent hill. It has every appearance of distinction. Appropriately enough it stands in 1961 on the site of the home of one of Maryland's most distinguished citizens of the Revolutionary War era. The place was the home of the Honorable Henry Griffith. His actual dwelling was a long, low, stone house to the right and east of the present building of stone and frame.

Henry Griffith, to whom we shall refer as the Honorable Henry, was born in Anne Arundel County on February 14, 1720, a son of Orlando and Katharine (Howard) Griffith. He married Elizabeth Dorsey in April, 1741. There is ample evidence that he became a resident of lower Frederick County, later Montgomery, before 1774, for in that year he became famous. He acquired a number of large tracts of land in Lower Frederick County, among them Cow Pasture, which contained 3,854 acres acquired in. 1761, and 550 acres he bought from John Beale Bordley, in 1770, and others called Tusculum, Griffith's Chance, Inman's Plains, Elk Ridge and others, until he owned about 15,000 acres at the time of his death.1

One of his many distinctions was the sending of four sons into the Revolutionary conflict, all of whom served their country with valor. To do justice to the records of these patriotic men would require far more space than the scope of this sketch will permit. To call attention to the old homesite, and to recall some of the memories of its distinguished residents is the earnest desire of the author.

The Honorable Henry Griffith was a member of the Lower House of the Colonial Assembly for Anne Arundel County from 1763 to 1770. and for Lower Frederick County from 1772 to 1775. This last office indicates that he must have been a resident of Montgomery County. The introduction of the Boston Port Bill in the British House of Commons in March, 1774, prohibiting commerce with that Port set off a furore on both sides of the Atlantic. Protest meetings were being held throughout the Colonies. One of the first such meetings was called uel Griffith; and on a third side is an inscripat old Hungerford Tavern on June 11, 1774, in

what is now Rockville. Henry Griffith was chosen moderator of that historic meeting. The Honorable Henry Griffith was named with a number of other prominent citizens to attend a general committee meeting for the whole state at Annapolis. On June 22 the deputies from all the counties assembled in Annapolis, but adjourned to a later date, and on September 5, 1774, the Continental Congress met in Philadelphia holding a meeting first proposed by Maryland. The Congress adopted resolutions to carry into effect the non-importation agreements. On November 18, 1774, the inhabitants of Lower Frederick County met at the court house, and appointed a Committee of one hundred to carry into execution the resolutions agreed upon by the Congress. The Honorable Henry Griffith and his son Henry II were both named members of that Committee.

On January 24, 1775, the resolves of the Continental Congress were unanimously approved at a meeting held at Frederick County Court House, and a long list of citizens chosen by districts was named to carry the resolves into exccution. Henry I and Henry II were both on the Committee of Observation. On July 26, 1775. Henry I was a member of the Convention in Annapolis which formed the Association of Freemen of Maryland.

Among the archives of the Revolutionary War we find numerous references to Henry I and the other Griffiths, among them his own sons. This courageous man lived to see the new nation of his ideals well launched toward success by the ratification of its Constitution in 1787. His noble life ended in 1794 in its seventyfifth year. It is believed that his remains were buried in a family plot near this house. The few markers known to have been there were scattered, and none has been legible in recent years.

In 1902 a white marble monument twelve feet high was erected in the cemetery at Laytonsville by one of the descendants of Honorable Henry Griffith, and suitably chiseled on one side, "In memory of Henry Griffith, son of Orlando," giving brief references to his official positions; another side is cut in memory of Captain Sam-

¹See Liber N, Folio 237, Land Records of Montgomery County.

ion in memory of Major Philemon Griffith. The fourth side of this shaft bears the name of Romulus Griffith, the donor.

Hon. Henry Griffith married Elizabeth Dorsey. Henry II was a son of this union, born in March, 1745. Elizabeth died December 24, 1749, and Henry subsequently married Ruth Hammond. Besides several daughters, there were four sons: Samuel, Philemon, Charles, and Joshua. These four sons distinguished themselves by service during the Revolutionary War. It has been handed down from one generation to another that Hon. Henry I was the only eitizen of Lower Frederick County invited to witness the signing of the Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia in July 1776.

Reference has already been made to the record of Henry II. He was commissioned a colonel for distinguished service by the Council of Maryland. He and his father were both mem-

bers of the Society of the Cincinnati."

Samuel attained the rank of captain, and was with the Lafayette Corps in the battles of Germantown and Brandywine, and was wounded in the latter conflict. His company of ninety was reduced to sixteen men, according to reports. An interesting reunion of Samuel with his old commander is reported by a Griffith descendant.

When Lafayette was visiting this country in 1825 the Governor of Maryland arranged a reception for the General at Annapolis. Children lined up along the walk to the Capitol building and threw flowers into the path of the aged hero as they sang, "Hail to the Chief." After the reception which followed in the historic Senate Chamber, someone took Samuel forward, and reminded Lafayette of the battles they had shared together, whereupon they clasped each other in their arms, filled with emotion at their memories.

Charles Griffith, while serving in the United States Navy, was captured. The ship which was taking him to England as a prisoner was overtaken by pirates, and Charles was taken to Algiers where, according to the story, he was held in bondage for many years. Part of that time he was held a slave in Turkey by a mogul of that country and later spent some time in Egypt. He finally was able to escape to the United States, and died in Howard County in 1830.

Philemon was commissioned a major in the infantry. He served throughout the war, and died in April, 1838, at his home. Joshua was too

young to serve in the armed forces. He, with Philemon, was an executor of his father's estate.

The will of The Honorable Henry was admitted to probate in Rockville in October, 1794; his vast estate was distributed to his heirs, various slaves being assigned by name to his children. Some of his land in Alleghany County was ordered sold for the benefit of the children of his son, John, deceased. He devised to his son, Henry, Jr., the plantation "where my two sons now live on Hawlings River, supposed to contain 600 acres, called Tusculum." (See Edgehill and Retirement). To his son, Samuel, he gave the plantation where he was residing, and to Joshua he gave, "my dwelling plantation to be laid off as follows"; then there appears a long description of this bequest by metes and bounds in which Tusculum, Gaither's Spring, and the lines of John Burgess's land are mentioned. This tract supposedly contained 500 aeres. This bequest to Joshua is undoubtedly the home farm of the patriot now known as Sundown Farms.

The Montgomery County Historical Society on September 6, 1951, unveiled a bronze tablet at the site of Hungerford Tavern at Rockville.

Henry Griffith's original house stood just beyond and to the east, separated from the kitchen by a breezeway. This has now been roofed over and the first floor room has been converted into a modern kitchen.

The rough stone wing of the house to the left, was most likely, built by Henry Howard of John, after his marriage, in 1807, as it seems unlikely that it was built by Joshua Griffith, after he received the farm from his father's estate, although that is a possibility.

The right-hand wing of frame construction is



NO. 106 C-9 LEFT-WING HENRY HOWARD OF JOHN CA. 1807-'10 STONE RIGHT-WING THOMAS HOWARD CA. 1875 FRAME

understood to have been built by Thomas Howard.

Land Records at Rockville reveal that Philemon and Joshua Griffith, Executors of the late Henry Griffith, I, deceased, did on May 15, 1807, convey to Henry Howard, son of John, the 550acre tract which the Honorable Henry bought from John Beale Bordley on November 23, 1770. This transfer to Howard for a consideration of \$5,500-included the land on which the Honorable Henry Griffith lived, which had been devised to his son Joshua by his will and which land is now known as Sundown Farms.

Henry Howard was a prominent attorney-atlaw from Washington-was born in 1774, a son of John Beale Howard of Anne Arundel County, and in 1807 married Sarah Fauntleroy Graham of Lancaster County, Virginia, the same year that he acquired the farm. Henry Howard of John died at the farm in 1834, where he was buried. In 1838 his widow, Sarah F., sold the property to George R. Gaither, who in

turn sold it to Frederick O. Gaither in 1862. Later his widow, Mary E. Gaither, sold to Thomas B. Howard, a family in no way related to the former Henry Howard of John. From Thomas B., the place was left to Clifford Howard his son, who in 1940 sold the farm to Everett R. Hurt and Mercedes, his wife. Mr. and Mrs. Hurt beautifully modernized and tastefully decorated the house, making it very attractive in keeping with the traditions of old manor houses.

In 1961, the huge herd of some of the best Hereford cattle in this country was sold, and following the death of Mr. Everett Hurt, this place was sold to Mr. Carl M. Freeman, owner in 1961.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Freeman, have the following children, Susan Freeman, aged 20, sophomore at Milwaukee Downer College, Wis.; Lisa Freeman, aged 15, student at Friends School, Washington; and Carla Freeman, aged 12, student at Friends School, Washington.

Sunnyside

S WE have seen in the story of Drayton. Manor Enlarged, the price having been \$3,000. the youngest child and fifth son of Caleb all the usual farm tasks at his boyhood home. In March, 1866, he was married in Philadelphia to Albina Osburn, and moved into the house Virginia, April 4th, 1843, a child of Mortimer shown on next page that year. The house had been occupied previously by his eldest brother Charles and his wife Sarah Kirk Stabler.

Sunnyside is located on the lands of Caleb Stabler and is about half-way between Alloway and Drayton, a few minutes walk from them both. It is situated on the highest point of the 4721/2 acres and was deeded to Caleb Stabler, in November 1841, when he moved to The Manor.

There was a small farm house on the site which was added to and improved in 1860, when Caleb conveyed the land by deed dated March 1, of that year to his son Charles and his bride Sarah. In 1866, Charles sold the farm to his brother Asa, the deed being dated June 26, and calls for fifty-six acres, a part of Snowden's

The deed is made, "Subject to an annuity to be and Ann Stabler was named Asa Moore paid to Caleb and Ann Stabler of \$100, if de-Stabler. He was born July 2, 1837, and was a manded in any current year, a lien on said land sturdy young farmer, aggressive and helpful in accord with the terms of the deed from Caleb and Ann Stabler to Charles Stabler."

Albina Osburn was born in Loudoun County, and Mary Summers Osburn. She received a fine primary education in Baltimore and came to Sandy Spring when twenty years of age to teach in a small schoolhouse near The Manor. After her marriage to young Stabler, they came to Laurel and drove the ten miles to their new home, where a reception awaited them. They spent fifty-six years together at Sunnyside. Their home was renowned during these years for hospitality, generous entertaining from bountiful farm products, accompanied by pervading good cheer. An immaculate and skilled housekeeper, and delightful hostess, Albina Stabler was universally missed when she was called to the beyond in February 1922. She had remarkable tenacity and endurance and al-



NAME SUNDOWN FARMS / TUSCULUM

LOCATION DAMASCUS Rd. UNITY, Md.

PHOTO TAKEN 11/7/74 MOWYER



NAME SUNDOWN FARMS TUSCULUM LOCATION DAMASCUS REL UNITY, MEL

PHOTO TAKEN 11/1/14 MOWYER

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